



English Martyrs School, St. Mark Street, London E1 8DJ
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Headteacher – Miss B Nugent

Mission Statement “We are special people on a journey, growing and learning together in search of excellence, as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus.”

Values: *Love – Respect - Honesty*

21st March 2024

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of the Spring term and the end of Lent we look towards Easter in our Church calendar. Next week we celebrate Holy Week which begins with Jesus’ joyful entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, His celebration of the ‘First Mass’ on Holy Thursday and His final journey carrying His cross on Good Friday.

Your children have been learning about these events of Holy Week and how we celebrate them in our church during the special Holy Week services. The Easter Season will begin with Jesus’ resurrection on Easter Sunday. I hope you will be able to attend these services in your church with your children, while we teach them to know what it means to be Catholic, parents have the greater task of teaching them in practice.

Lenten Reflection - Ms Freeman and Year 5 pupils have been preparing the Easter Play also known as the Lenten Reflection. They are supported by Mrs Simon’s choir and pupils from Years 1-6. All parents are welcome to attend the Easter Play in the hall on Tuesday 26th March at 2.15pm. Refreshments will be served after the performance, donations of tea, coffee, sugar, cakes, bakes and other sweet treats would be much appreciated. All money raised will be donated to Cardinal Nichols Lenten Appeal.

Cardinal Nichols’ Lenten Appeal - Our Catholic Social Teaching this term is to recognise the vulnerable in our society and to participate in ways to offer them support. Year 1 – 6 each have planned fund raising activities which you will have been invited to support. Other fundraising events you are welcome to attend are; Year 5 Country Dance/ Coffee afternoon, Wednesday 27th March at 2.30pm and Year 4 concert ‘Battle of Britain’ / hot cross bun breakfast, Monday 25th March at 9.15am. Minimum donation of £3 or maximum £10 suggested for the Cardinal’s appeal.

Allergies - We have several children and staff in school with severe allergies and children who are being assessed for allergies. Therefore, we do not allow chocolate or nuts, including peanut butter, in school for birthday treats or in packed lunches. (At pupils’ request and as a special Easter treat we break this rule for the Easter Egg Hunt)

Easter Egg Hunt - Donations of Easter Eggs for the egg hunt on Thursday 27th March would be much appreciated.

School Roll - I am sure you have seen the banners advertising places in all classes on the school and church railings. Fr Andrew also has one placed at St Patricks. Falling rolls is a concern for most schools across London and has serious consequences for school budgets and staffing. Your support in advertising our school would be much appreciated. You could tell new arrivals about our school or place our posters in your apartment buildings. We have spaces in Nursery, Reception and most other years.

Holiday Childcare Scheme - The Easter Holiday childcare scheme is now open for bookings. It will be held in St Mary and St Michael Catholic Primary School, Sutton Street, E1 OBD. More information can be found [here](#).

Summer uniform - Summer uniform for boys consists of grey shorts and plain white polo shirt, navy v-neck jumper, black shoes and plain navy jacket without logo. Summer uniform for girls consists of pink (not red) check summer dress available from Marks & Spencer in store or by shopping online using the following [link](#) or by using the code T766487. navy or white v-neck cardigan and navy/black or white school shoes (no open toe sandals) and white/navy jacket without logo. Girls may also wear a plain white polo shirt with navy or grey skirt / skirt, culottes or shorts. Nursery pupils wear plain coloured t-shirt and navy shorts and Reception wear plain white polo shirt and navy shorts.

Sponsored Reading Bingo - The PTA have devised a fantastic Reading Bingo activity for your children to complete during the month of March. Teachers will set the task in class, so keep an eye out for the sponsor form! A way to encourage reading for pleasure at home, whilst also raising money for books in class.

School lunch menu April - October 2024 - The new menu will be added to the school website when it becomes available, please introduce your children to new foods on the menu and encourage them to try new dishes while in school.

Water bottles - Please make sure your children bring their water bottles to school each day, we have a water tap in the playground where children can refill water bottles.

Lost property - Please ensure each item of uniform is labelled so we can return lost items of clothing. Remember to rewrite names after washing as ink fades. Clothing left at the end of this term will be put into the clothing recycle scheme.

Election Day - The school be used as a Local Council Elections station on 2nd May. The school will remain open but children arriving late will be unable to access the school due to the reception area being closed off to the rest of the school. Please ensure your child arrives on time.

Cycle training courses - Tower Hamlets Bikeworks will be holding free family cycle courses for beginners and improvers over the Easter break. The courses will be held on April 2nd, 4th and 5th in Victoria Park. For more information, please call 020 8980 7998 (option 1) or email cycletraining@bikeworks.org.uk. More details of activities over the Easter break can be found [here](#).

Governor Update – Gabrielle Ettridge has resigned from her role as a governor. We thank her for her support to our school, her contribution as a parent and her classroom experience were much appreciated. We will send details of the Governor Election Process as soon as we return after Easter.

Medicine in school – Only medication prescribed by GP can be administered in school. Parents must bring medication to the office and complete the form 'Request for school to administer Medication'.

School Photographs - All pupils in school on Wednesday were photographed by our school photographer. The proof has sent home for you to complete your online order by April 15th if you wish to receive the 10% discount.

Thank you all for your continued support and cooperation. School will close at 2pm on Thursday 28th March. We look forward to welcoming you and your children back to school for the Summer term on Monday 15th April.

Have a very happy and holy Easter break.

Yours sincerely,
Miss B Nugent

